REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-28, 30, and 32-35 are currently pending. Claims 1, 10, 12, 14-16, 25, and 34 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 25-28, 30, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory carrier wave embodiments; and Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21-28, 30, and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,983 to Levi (hereinafter "the '983 patent").

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §101 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 25. Claim 25 has been amended to be directed to a computer program product including a non-carrier wave computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is directed to statutory subject matter.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a computer-implemented remote device monitoring system, comprising: (1) a local monitoring computer configured to collect information from a device connected to a first network using an SNMP protocol, and to send the information to a remote monitoring computer connected to a second network via a wide area network using a protocol; and (2) the remote monitoring computer configured to receive the information using the protocol and to store the information in association with an IP address of the device in a digital repository connected to the second network. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the local monitoring computer is configured to automatically request the information from the device over the first network, without receiving any instructions from

the remote monitoring computer requesting that the information be collected from the device; and that, after initialization of the local monitoring computer, the local monitoring computer is configured to automatically send the information to the remote monitoring computer, without receiving any instructions from the remote monitoring computer requesting that the collected information be sent. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.[1]

The '983 patent is directed to a device monitoring method in which an operation center 12 provides an agent 81 for downloading by a user to one or more of the user's devices for which the user is contracted for monitoring service. Further, the '983 patent discloses that *the agent is installed on the devices* associated with the user's sites and communicates with the operations center periodically. As shown in Figure 1, the agent 81 is installed on a device 30 which communicates with the operation center 12 over the Internet 34. See also Figure 6 which shows the agent 81 at the monitored device 30.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '983 patent fails to disclose a local monitoring computer configured to collect information from a device connected to a first network using an SNMP protocol, as recited in amended Claim 1. As described in column 9 of the '983 patent, the agent 81 is a file which is downloadable from the server via FTP or HTTP and is a C++ based operating system extension specific to a particular operating system, but may be an output or an application written in a suitable platform-independent programming language such as C, JAVA, and Perl. In contrast, Claim 1 requires the use of a local monitoring computer, a remote monitoring computer, a device, and three networks: a first network to which the device is connected, a second network to which the remote monitoring computer is connected, and a wide-area network. However, the '983 patent merely discloses a device 30 connected to the Internet, which is connected to an operations

[1] See, e.g., Figure 13 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

center 12. The '982 patent does not disclose the three networks, the device, and the two computers recited in amended Claim 1. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '983 patent fails to disclose that the local monitoring computer is configured to automatically request the information from the device over the first network, as recited in amended Claim 1. As discussed above, the '983 patent merely discloses that the software agent 81 is installed on the device.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claims 16, 25, and 34 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 16, 25, and 34 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 16, 25, and 34 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 16, 25, and 34 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '983 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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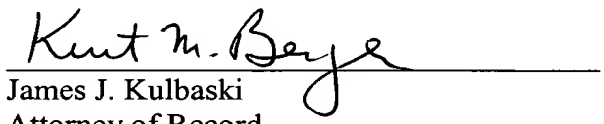

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